

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
AND AUDIOLOGY
Conference Call Board Meeting
Professional Licensing Board
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217
June 28, 2010**

The Conference Call Board Meeting for the Georgia State Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology was held on Monday, June 28, 2010, at the Professional Licensing Boards, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following Board members were present:	Others Present:
Andrea Boswell Elizabeth Larrimore Robin Bohannon Susan Daughtry Lori Smith	Anita Martin, Executive Director Janet Wray, Sr. Assistant Attorney General Susan Hewett, Licensure Supervisor Carol White, Board Secretary

Open Session

Andrea Boswell established that a quorum was present and the meeting that was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. was **called to order** at 8:38 a.m.

Review of May 24, 2010 Board meeting minutes.

- *Board response:* Elizabeth Larrimore moved to **approve** the minutes as amended. Susan Daughtry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify License.

- *Board response:* Robin Bohannon moved to approve. Susan Daughtry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Request from Janet Shelfer for a Rule Waiver on Board Rule 609-3-.07

- *Board response:* The Board states a Rule Waiver is not required.

General: Andrea Boswell

- The Board held a discussion of a letter received from Dr. Goldsmith. The Board tabled the issue until the July 2010 Board meeting.
- Ms. Wray advised the Board on the Policy Statement under development by the audiologist members of the Board. This issue will be considered further at the July 2010 board meeting.

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
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Attorney General's Open Session:

- Ms. Wray discussed Board Rule 609-3-.04 and Board Rule 609-7-.01. Elizabeth Larrimore made a motion to post Board Rules 609-3-.04 and 609-7-.01. Susan Daughtry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

609-3-.04 Paid Clinical Experience/ Required Professional Experience.

In order to meet the requirements for paid clinical experience/required professional experience, an individual must submit the required application, pay applicable fees and satisfy the following requirements:

a) Paid Clinical Experience (PCE)/Required Professional Experience (RPE) Fellow.

In order to be eligible to become a Paid Clinical Fellow Experience/Required Professional Experience Fellow, the applicant must have met the academic and clinical experience requirements set out in Board Rules. The applicant must have been issued an official transcript showing degree earned and date of issue.

1. Paid Clinical Experience/ Required Professional Experience (RPE) Duration – Speech-Language Pathology or Masters Degree Audiology. The speech-language pathology or master's degree audiology applicant for licensure must submit evidence of satisfactory completion of no less than 36 weeks of full-time professional employment. A minimum of 30 hours of work per week constitutes full-time employment. At least 80% of the clinical fellowship work week must be in direct client contact (assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, screening, habilitation, or rehabilitation) related to the management process. Thus, in a 30-hour work week, at least 24 hours must be devoted to direct clinical activities. The PCE/RPE must be completed no more than 12 months after the initial application. The PCE/RPE requirement can also be met by less than full-time employment, but must be completed no more than 24 months after initial application. For example, if the PCE/RPE Fellow works:

(i) 25-29 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 48 weeks.

(ii) 20-24 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 60 weeks.

(iii) 15-19 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 72 weeks.

Professional employment of less than 15 hours per week may not be used to fulfill any part of the PCE/RPE.

2. Paid Clinical Experience (PCE)/Required Professional Experience (RPE) Duration – Doctoral Degree Audiology.

(i) The applicant who has completed a clinical externship as outlined in the board rule 609-3-.03 has satisfied the Required Professional Experience.

(ii) The applicant who did not complete the clinical externship as outlined in board rule 609-3-.03 shall follow the required professional experience as outlined for the master's degree audiology applicant.

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(b) Required Supervision During the PCE/RPE.

1. At all times during the period of PCE/RPE, the PCE/RPE Fellow shall be under the direction of one or more supervisors.
2. Supervision of the PCE/RPE Fellow must entail the personal and direct monitoring of the Fellow's work.
3. Personal and direct monitoring activities shall include but not be limited to observations, evaluations of written reports, evaluation by professional colleagues and discussions of clinical work.
4. Personal and direct monitoring activities shall be conducted at a minimum of one per month in order to evaluate the progress of the PCE/RPE Fellow.

(c) Qualifications and Responsibilities of the PCE/RPE Supervisor.

1. The PCE/RPE must be obtained under a supervisor who is either:

- (i) a Georgia licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist who is licensed in the area(s) for which the PCE/RPE Fellow seeks clinical professional experience and who is ultimately liable for the quality of services provided;
- (ii) The supervisor shall supervise no more than two (2) PCE/RPE Fellows under the provisions of this rule; and
- (iii) A family member or individual related in any way to the PCE/RPE Fellow may not serve as a PCE/RPE supervisor.

(d) Application for PCE/RPE Fellow Provisional License.

1. The PCE/RPE Fellow applicant and supervisor must submit to the Board an application and all required information for provisional license. The Board must receive official undergraduate and graduate transcripts indicating degree(s) earned and date of issue.
2. The PCE/RPE applicant may not begin the PCE/RPE until Board approval is received and provisional license number issued. The Board may, at its discretion, approve the plan for PCE/RPE and grant a provisional license to the application as a PCE/RPE Fellow for the purpose of practicing during the PCE/RPE.

3. The provisional license shall be valid for a period of one year from the beginning date of the PCE/RPE period.

- (i) The provisional license may be renewed for one additional year if the approved PCE/RPE period is for part time experience and the period extends beyond one year, but may not be renewed solely for the purposes of the applicant's completion of other license requirements.
- (ii) If the PCE/RPE Fellow has been approved for permanent license, the provisional license shall be superceded. If the PCE/RPE Fellow is not approved for permanent license, the provisional license may be voided or continued through the remaining period of validity of the license.

(e) Grounds for denial/suspension/revocation of PCE/RPE.

The Board shall have the authority to refuse to grant a provisional license to, suspend or revoke a provisional license pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
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(f) Documentation of Completion of the PCE/RPE.

1. ~~Within 14 calendar days~~ After completing the approved PCE/RPE period, the PCE/RPE Fellow and supervisor shall complete and provide to the Board the appropriate notarized forms to document completion of the PCE/RPE.
2. The documentation shall provide information on the approximate hours per calendar week engaged in diagnostic evaluations, therapy, recordkeeping, staff meetings and in-service training.
3. Any calendar week in which the PCE/RPE Fellow has not worked a minimum of ~~35~~ 30 hours for full-time or ~~17~~ 15 hours for part-time shall not be counted toward the PCE/RPE.
4. The supervisor and PCE/RPE Fellow shall provide the documentation of the monitoring activities as provided for in Board Rules.
5. The documentation shall include a statement on the supervisor's assessment of the PCE/RPE Fellow's clinical competency as demonstrated by performance during the PCE/RPE.

(g) Change(s) to the PCE/RPE.

1. The PCE/RPE Fellow shall notify the Board within 14 calendar days of any changes in the PCE/RPE during the approved period, including but not limited to:
 - (i) the dates and duration of any breaks in service,
 - (ii) change in PCE/RPE supervisor,
 - (iii) change in the place of employment, or
 - (iv) change of employer.
2. The Board may approve the changes in its discretion, and specify allowable adjustments in the PCE/RPE.

(h) Failure to Obtain a Provisional License for the PCE/RPE.

1. A person who practices speech-language pathology and/or Audiology and who fails to apply for and be approved for a provisional license shall be considered practicing without a license and may be subject to sanction of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
2. A supervisor who allows a person to practice without a provisional license for the PCE/RPE may be subject to sanction of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-44-3, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, and 43-44-11.

609-7-.01 Continuing Professional Education Requirements.

- (1) The purpose of continuing education is to maintain and enhance the professional competency of speech-language pathologists and audiologists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.
- (2) A continuing education unit (CEU) is defined as ten (10) clock hours of continuing professional education. CEU hours may not be carried over from one licensure biennium to the next.
- (3) In order to renew a license, the licensee must obtain a minimum of 2.0 CEUs (20 clock hours) during each biennium period of licensure.
- (4) Individuals who hold licenses in both Speech-Language Pathology and in

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
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Audiology shall be required to complete a minimum of 2.0 CEUs in Speech-Language Pathology and 2.0 CEUs in Audiology.

(5) CEU requirements for newly approved license holders will be pro-rated during the first biennium licensure period as follows:

(a) Licensees whose applications are approved during the first six (6) months of the biennium will be required to accrue two (2) CEUs.

(b) Licensees approved during the second six (6) months of the biennium will be required to accrue one and one half (1 ½) CEUs.

(c) Licensees approved during the third six months of the biennium will be required to accrue one (1) CEU.

(d) Licensees approved during the final six (6) months are not required to accrue CEUs until the following licensure biennium.

(6) CEU hours must be in educational experiences directly related to the scope of practice of the licensee, and must be designed to increase the competence of the licensee in the area of licensure. Examples of activities that may provide CEU hours include:

(a) Scientific and educational lectures, workshops, or seminars;

(b) College courses taken for credit or through official audit:

1. College course credit shall be deemed to be equivalent to CEUs as follows: One Semester Hour = 1.5 CEUs; One Trimester Hour = 1.3 CEUs; One Quarter Hour = 1.0 CEU.

(c) Presentations by licensees: 0.5 CEUs (5 clock hours) will be awarded for the presentation of any lecture, workshop or seminar. A licensee may only receive credit for one presentation per biennium.

(d) Audio and video conferences, online courses, and teleconferences; and self-study courses accompanied by an examination by the CEU provider.

(e) Praxis Examination in the area of licensure.

1. Two (2.0) CEUs will be awarded for successful completion of the Praxis with a score of 650. Successful completion of this examination during the biennium will satisfy all CEU requirements for the license during that biennium.

2. The Board approved national examination results that are used in order to receive a license may not be used again for the renewal of that license.

3. A person who is licensed in both Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology must pass tests in both Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to meet all continuing education requirements. If the licensee passes the examination in only one area, s/he must obtain 2.0 additional CEUs in the area for which the examination was not passed.

(f) Not more than two (.2) CEU's of the required twenty (2.0) per biennium will be awarded for courses in the area(s) of ethics, record-keeping, documentation, Georgia laws and rules, Medicaid regulations and/or Medicare regulations or related topics not otherwise excluded in Georgia laws and rules.

(7) Documentation of CEUs:

(a) Each licensee shall maintain for three (3) years their own record of the CEU

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activities that they completed. The Board will not maintain CEU files for licensees.

(b) Licensees shall retain documentation of their continuing education activities and shall not send them to the Board Office unless the Board requests the licensee to do so.

(c) Licensees shall attest on their biennial licensure renewal application, that they have satisfied the CEU requirements as set out above.

(d) False attestation of satisfaction of CEU requirements on a renewal application shall subject the licensee to disciplinary actions, including revocation.

(8) Method of Auditing CEUs:

(a) The Board will audit a random fixed percentage of applications. Licensees who are audited will be required to document the CEU activities. Required documentation is a certificate or proof of attendance which includes the sponsoring agency, the licensee's name, the date of the activity, the length of the session, and either the signature of a representative from the sponsoring agency or official certification by the sponsoring agency. A description of the CEU activity may be required if the title of the activity does not clearly state the content of the CEU activity. If the licensee attends a multi-session CEU activity, as in a state or national convention or meeting, additional required information includes a specific listing of each session, the length of each session, and a description of each session if the title does not clearly state the content of the session.

(b) Current members of the Board, who are licensees of the Board, shall be audited for each biennium that they serve on the Board.

(c) Delinquent renewals shall be subject to the CEU audit for that biennium.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-15, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, 43-44-11.

Executive Session

Susan Daughtry made a motion, Terri Williams seconded and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** in accordance with O.C.G.A §43-1-2(k) to deliberate on applications. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Elizabeth Larrimore, and Robin Bohannon. The Board concluded **Executive Session** in order to vote on these matters and continue with the public session.

Applications:

1. J.S. – Audiology Reinstatement Applicant – Susan Daughtry made a motion to approve. Robin Bohannon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Attorney General– Ms. Janet Wray

- Ms. Wray provided the board with an update on the case in her office.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Carol White, Board Secretary

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Anita O. Martin, Executive Director